

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

--7. (Currently Amended) A moving picture compression method ~~wherein a motion vector of a picture signal is~~ for compressing a previously expanded picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in a prior compression of that picture signal, said motion vector obtained in said prior compression being supplied with the previously expanded picture signal and being quantized; the moving picture compression method comprising the steps of:
inputting the previously expanded picture signal and quantized motion vector;
separating the motion vector of ~~a~~ the inputted moving picture signal;
compressing the moving picture signal using the separated motion vector; and
dequantizing ~~a~~ the separated quantized motion vector; ~~separated in said separating step~~
and
combining the dequantized motion vector with said compressed moving picture signal.--

--8. (Previously Presented) The moving picture compression method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the motion vector is multiplexed in a blanking portion of the moving picture signal.--

--9. (Currently Amended) A moving picture expansion method for expanding a compressed motion picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in prior compression of that picture signal, said method comprising the steps of:

separating a said motion vector ~~supplied in a state of being~~ appended to the compressed motion picture signal;

expanding the compressed motion picture signal using the separated motion vector; and

multiplexing the separated motion vector in a blanking portion of the expanded motion picture signal.--

--10 (Currently Amended) A moving picture expansion method for expanding a compressed motion picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in prior compression of that picture signal, said method comprising the steps of:

separating a said motion vector ~~supplied in a state of being~~ appended to the compressed motion picture signal;

expanding the compressed motion picture signal using the separated motion vector;

~~multiplexing the separated motion vector of the expanded motion picture signal;~~

quantizing the separated motion vector; and

multiplexing the separated quantized motion vector of the expanded motion picture signal.--

--11. (Previously Presented) The moving picture expansion method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the motion vector is multiplexed in a blanking portion of the motion picture signal.--

--12. (Currently Amended) A moving picture compression method for compressing a previously expanded picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in a prior

compression of that picture signal, said motion vector obtained in said prior compression having been used for expanding the prior compression of that picture signal and being supplied with the previously expanded picture signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~an~~ the previously expanded motion picture signal that had been produced by multiplexing ~~an~~ said previously expanded moving picture signal with ~~a~~ the motion vector that was used for ~~the expansion of said moving~~ expanding the prior compression of that picture signal;

separating ~~a~~ the received motion vector from the received expanded motion picture signal; ~~and~~

compressing the received expanded motion picture signal using the separated motion vector; and

combining the separated motion vector with the compressed motion picture signal.--

--13. (Currently Amended) A moving picture compression method for compressing a previously expanded picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in a prior compression of that picture signal, said motion vector obtained in said prior compression having been used for expanding the prior compression of that picture signal and being supplied with the previously expanded picture signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~an~~ the previously expanded motion picture signal that had been produced by multiplexing ~~an~~ said previously expanded moving picture signal with ~~a~~ the motion vector that was used for ~~the expansion of said moving~~ expanding the prior compression of that picture signal;

separating ~~a~~the received motion vector from the received expanded motion picture signal;
detecting, from the received expanded motion picture signal freed of the multiplexed motion vector, a new motion vector in the neighborhood of the separated motion vector; ~~and~~
compressing the received expanded motion picture signal using the new motion vector;
and
combining the new motion vector with the compressed motion picture signal.--

--14. (Currently Amended) A moving picture compression method for compressing a previously expanded picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in a prior compression of that picture signal, said method comprising the steps of:

separating from a received moving picture signal ~~a~~the motion vector that is multiplexed in a blanking portion in the received moving picture signal, wherein said motion vector is separated from said blanking portion before subsequent compression and expansion, and is used for compression and expansion when repeated compression and expansion of said received moving picture signal is to occur;

detecting, from the received moving picture signal freed of the multiplexed motion vector, a new motion vector in the neighborhood of the separated motion vector; and
compressing the received moving picture signal using the new motion vector.--

--15. (Currently Amended) A moving picture expansion method for expanding a compressed motion picture signal that is supplied with a motion vector obtained in prior compression of that picture signal, said method comprising the steps of:

separating from the compressed motion picture signal a motion vector appended thereto;
expanding the compressed motion picture signal using the separated motion vector; and
multiplexing the separated motion vector ~~in a blanking portion in a received moving picture signal~~ with the expanded motion picture signal in a blanking portion in a received moving picture signal;

wherein said motion vector is separated from said blanking portion before subsequent compression and expansion, and is used for compression and expansion when repeated compression and expansion of said received moving picture signal is to occur.--